

was, Americans of good conscience rose to the challenge and implemented laws to ensure equal treatment under the law. We have a long way to go, but we have come a long way.

This Administration owed it to all Americans to deliver the message of possibility to the world. Yet, unfortunately, this administration approached this conference with little interest and a miniscule commitment to engagement. Representatives of this Administration stymied the preparation that began during the previous Administration. Therefore, its withdrawal from the conference was not a surprise.

And while the actions in Durban were not surprising, hope that the refusal to discuss differences does not become the trademark of this Administration and mar its ability to engage in constructive dialogue about civil and human rights in this country. The withdrawal from Durban, combined with the lack of a domestic civil rights policy, an unwillingness to proceed with much-needed election reform and the glaring refusal to end racial profiling, leads me to doubt this Administration's ability to candidly and fairly address issues of race and diversity within this country.

Mr. Speaker, racism in real. Discrimination is real. The argument for reparations should be openly discussed and seriously debated in this country. America must face its current racial reality and reconcile with its inglorious racial past. I suggest that Members of this House begin our national healing by passing a resolution which offers an acknowledgement of the sufferings caused by slavery and an official apology for governmental actions which perpetrated their condition. If we, as Representatives of the United States Government, cannot apologize for this sorry and unfortunate history, our future will be forever marred and our enemies will be able to say that the United States left Durban because it did not want to address its own history.

I call upon the Congress and the President to show the leadership necessary to begin healing within our country.

A COMMANDING ROLE FOR JAMES N. GOLDSMITH

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 6, 2001

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate an ally of veterans everywhere and my close friend, James N. Goldsmith, upon his election as Commander-in-Chief for the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. It is with particular pride that I note that Commander Goldsmith is a resident of Lapeer, Michigan.

Jim Goldsmith's election to head the VFW is a tribute to his many years of dutiful attention to the needs of veterans and the faith that his fellow veterans have placed in him for continued service and fidelity to their health and welfare. A decorated U.S. Army veteran who served in Vietnam, Jim has a deep and personal understanding of the obligation all citizens owe to the men and women who served this country during times of conflict on foreign soil and to those on active duty today.

Upon returning from Vietnam in 1967, Jim joined VFW Post 5666 in Flushing, Michigan, and he's been fighting on behalf of veterans ever since. A Life Member of VFW Post 4139 in Lapeer, Jim has held many posts in the local, state and national organization and he has received numerous awards. In 1978, Jim was selected as Michigan's "Young Veteran of the Year," and, in 1980, he became the first Vietnam veteran to win election as Department Junior Vice Commander.

Jim has traveled the world to learn the concerns of active duty service members and reservists. Adhering to a soldier's code never to leave a buddy behind, Jim has remained committed to accounting for missing American service members. He has made two trips to Southeast Asia in efforts to recover the remains of those still missing. He also has been a strong advocate for addressing veterans' medical needs and has made diabetes research a top priority.

Never willing to accept full credit for his good deeds, Jim points to each of the 2.7 million members of the VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary as key to his efforts. He also singles out his sons, Jim and Jeff, for enabling him to serve their needs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing gratitude to Commander-in-Chief Goldsmith for his valiant, enthusiastic and ongoing work for veterans. I am confident that Jim will continue to find new and better avenues to assist the men and women who have put their lives on the line in defense of our great Nation.

RECOGNITION OF 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF SYRACUSE'S ST. BRIGID AND ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 6, 2001

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 75th anniversary of St. Brigid and St. Joseph Church in Syracuse, New York. Its congregation is gathering to recognize this important milestone during a memorial mass and celebration on Sunday, September 16, 2001.

Established on May 26, 1926, and incorporated on August 9, 1926, St. Brigid's was formed from a portion of the rapidly growing St. Patrick's Parish on Tipperary Hill. While masses were first celebrated within St. Patrick's School by St. Brigid's founding pastor—Rev. William H. McCormick, the parish's first sanctuary was constructed the following year at the corner of Willis Avenue and Herkimer Street at a cost of \$165,000. The church's cornerstone was laid on June 15, 1927 with its first mass on August 21st. St. Brigid's School opened on September 6th of that year under the direction of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet.

Since that time, the parish has grown considerably. Under the leadership of its second pastor—Rev. William J. Brennan, the parish's debt was retired. Construction of a larger sanctuary began in 1955 with a Dedication

Day Mass celebrated in the new church on November 6, 1956. Rev. J. James Bannon was pastor at that time. In 1964, St. Brigid's merged with St. Joseph's French Church to become St. Brigid and St. Joseph's Parish. Rev. David J. Norcott became the combined church's first pastor followed by Rev. James A. McCloskey.

The parish is served today by Rev. Laurence W. Kennedy, Pastor, Mr. Leonard S. Monnat, Deacon, and Sister Theresa Brown, CSJ, Director of Human Development and Parish Minister. Approximately 510 families are served by St. Brigid and St. Joseph's Church. The parish continues to be a strong steward of Christian values and community outreach, ministering to the people of Syracuse's Westside.

On the occasion of its 75th anniversary, it is my honor to recognize the people of St. Brigid and St. Joseph's Church and to extend best wishes for many more successful years of faith-based ministry to follow.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO PROTECT THE PRIVACY RIGHTS OF OUR NATION'S UNIFORMED SERVICEMEMBERS

HON. RICK BOUCHER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 6, 2001

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with my colleagues Mr. SHAYS and Mr. WAXMAN, in introducing legislation to protect the privacy rights of our nation's uniformed servicemembers.

If enacted into law, the legislation we have put forward will clarify that the same right of privacy guaranteed to all other individuals under the Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act shall apply to members of the uniformed services.

The Privacy Act was established in 1974 to ensure that the information the Federal Government collected as part of the operations and practices of agencies is protected, and the agencies observe and safeguard the right to personal privacy.

The need for this legislation arises from a September 2000 federal district court ruling which stated that military servicemembers cannot sue for damages when records containing information about them, which under the terms of the Privacy Act may not be released, are released by the government in violation of the Privacy Act. The Court based its ruling on the Feres doctrine, a 51 year old judge-made doctrine which states that servicemembers cannot bring civil actions against the government for acts incident to service because they have benefits available through their military health and other programs. As a result of this ruling, there is no effective way to prevent the unauthorized release of sensitive military personnel records and no way to compensate servicemembers for damages arising from acts by government agencies that are in violation of the Privacy Act.

Congress enacted the Privacy Act with an unambiguous intent to make government responsible for the damages it causes when the

law is violated. Our bill clarifies the intent of Congress to ensure that the right of privacy granted under the Act shall apply to members of the uniformed services and that military personnel may use the remedies of the Privacy Act, the Feres doctrine notwithstanding. A right without a remedy is no right at all.

The merit of this legislation is clear. The government collects vast amounts of sensitive information from and about military servicemembers. Fairness requires that the information, once collected, be made secure. Moreover, such an assurance will be in aid of the recruitment efforts of all our volunteer armed forces.

I urge the speedy adoption of this legislation.

**A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
ASSISTANT CHIEF ROBERT B.
MCKENNA**

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 6, 2001

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, Robert B. McKenna successfully completed the Federal Emergency Management Agencies Executive Fire Officer Program; and,

Whereas, the Emergency Fire Officer Program is designed to provide senior officers with a broad perspective on various facets of fire administration; and,

Whereas, Robert McKenna throughout his career has dedicated himself to demonstrating the highest degree of professionalism;

Therefore, I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing the impressive accomplishments of Robert B. McKenna, a leader in his community whom I am proud to call a constituent.

**RECOGNIZING BRIGADIER GENERAL
THOMAS KANE FOR HIS
SERVICE AT TRAVIS AIR FORCE
BASE**

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 6, 2001

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Brigadier General Thomas P. Kane, Commander of the 60th Air Mobility Wing, Travis Air Force Base, California, upon his reassignment to NATO's Allied Command Europe as Deputy Director of the Reaction Force Air Staff in Kalcar, Germany.

As Commander of the 60 AMW, General Kane was responsible for the combined efforts of all operations and support activities associated with the worldwide air mobility mission and responsible for ensuring the readiness and well being of the installation's active duty, reserve and civilian personnel and their families. Aircraft and personnel under General Kane's command have responded to combat efforts and humanitarian relief efforts worldwide.

Travis Air Force Base and its personnel have flourished under General Kane's command. He has been a tireless advocate for decent, affordable housing, successfully obtaining an increase in the Basic Allowance for Housing allotment for Travis personnel.

He has also been one of the driving forces in the countywide Affordable Housing Task Force to pursue alternative sources of funding for off-base housing.

Through his leadership, the base, working in partnership with Pride Industries, has launched a website to assist the base population in their efforts to locate affordable housing.

General Kane organized a group of key individuals to help implement his vision of privatizing the museum at Travis Air Force Base as the Jimmy Doolittle Air and Space Museum. The fundraising phase of this project was inaugurated this summer.

In 2000, the 60th Air Mobility Wing won the coveted Solano Trophy, which is awarded annually to the best active duty wing in the 15th Air Force.

General Kane is a graduate of the United States Air Force Academy and holds advanced degrees from the Naval War College and the University of Southern California.

His military decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters, Aerial Achievement Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, Combat Readiness Medal with device, National Defense Service Medal with device and the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.

Mr. Speaker, Brig. General Thomas P. Kane is a true patriot and distinguished American who has devoted himself to the service of our country. It is appropriate that we honor him today by expressing our gratitude for his dedication and wishing him well on his new NATO posting.

**THE PASSING OF HARRY
WEISBROD**

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 6, 2001

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Mr. Harry Weisbrod, a champion of labor and an active participant in the public policy process. While an investigator for the Department of Labor, Mr. Weisbrod changed the collective bargaining process in this country forever by organizing the first union of federal employees. Later, as a founder of a wage and labor consulting firm, he fought to develop ways for companies to be prosperous without forsaking their responsibility to support a standard of living which every American worker deserves. During his extraordinary life, he worked both within government and with government to promote a quality of life for its workers.

Mr. Weisbrod was a veteran and party activist. He cheated on his eye exam in order to enter the United States Army during war-time. Later, as a resident of Dallas, he contributed

to the improvement of the educational system by helping to organize the League for Educational Advancement in Dallas (LEAD), a grassroots organization devoted to school board reform. A true public servant, he was appointed to numerous Dallas boards and commissions, including the Dallas Civil Service Commission. Mr. Weisbrod believed in our system of government. He was an active participant in the Democratic Party and helped to develop many of its more progressive activities and programs.

Mr. Speaker, Harry Weisbrod transcended Earthly boundaries on September 1, 2001. Through this statement, it is my hope that the record of his service will be forever enshrined in American history.

**C. KEVIN DYKEMA: CHARTING A
COURSE FOR BAY CITY**

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 6, 2001

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate my close friend, Bay City Times Publisher C. Kevin Dykema, for the instrumental role he played in bringing the extraordinarily successful Tall Ships Celebration 2001 to my hometown of Bay City, Michigan, and for his leadership in organizing the Maritime Festival that welcomed the vessels to our community.

As chairman of the Board of Directors of Bay City's Tall Ships Celebration, Kevin spent incalculable hours at the helm to steer a course for an event that has left residents of Bay City swelling with pride. Kevin deserves our highest praise and gratitude for his vision, hard work and dedication. The impact of his efforts will be felt for many years as permanent residents and visitors from all points on the map sing the praises of Bay City, Michigan, and list the celebration as yet another example of the city's welcoming attitude.

A long-time sailing enthusiast, Kevin turned his love for the water and his interest in maritime history into an economic windfall for the area when he initiated and fulfilled a plan to bring the Appledore schooner to Bay City as a permanent attraction and educational tool for students and adults to learn more about the unique environment of the Saginaw Bay. A co-founder of BaySail, Inc., the non-profit organization that oversees the Appledore, Kevin has been an enthusiastic and energetic booster of historical sailing ships. While the opportunity to lure the Tall Ships challenge to Bay City was certainly a labor of love for Kevin, he could not have anticipated the massive team effort or the extraordinary time commitment required. Yet, he pulled it all off with flying colors.

Such endeavors are nothing new for Kevin. He has been a vital and visible force in the community since first coming to town in 1991. His involvement in a wide-ranging number of service organizations and his willingness to step up to the plate to lead various volunteer efforts have served our community well. Of course, such involvement cannot occur without the support of family and Kevin has been fortunate to have the encouragement of his wife, Betsy, and children, Pete and Jane.